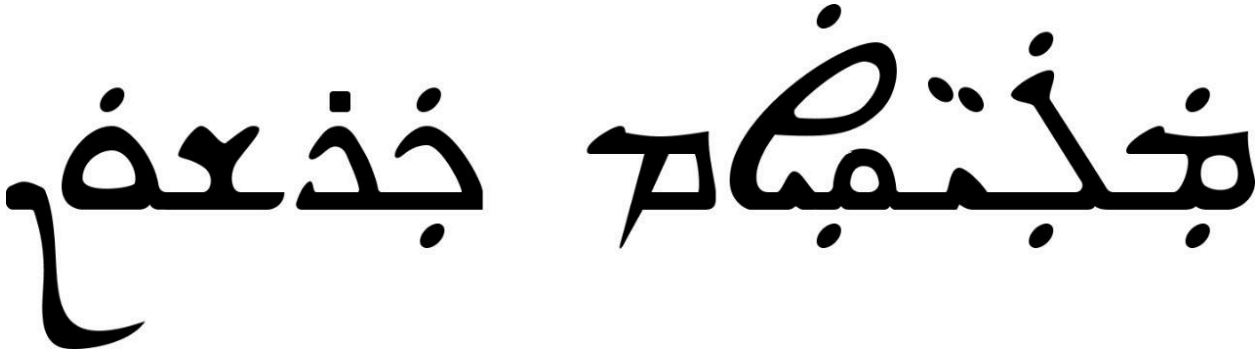
# A COMPREHENSIVE TEXTBOOK ON SURIYANI MALAYALAM (KARSHONI/GARSHONI SCRIPT)



## Introduction

Suriyani Malayalam, also known as Karshoni or Garshoni (and sometimes called Syriac Malayalam), is a unique writing system that represents Malayalam language using a modified Syriac alphabet. This writing system emerged among the Saint Thomas Christians (also known as Syrian Christians or Nasranis) in Kerala, India, and was particularly prominent until the 19th century. The script combines the East Syriac (Madnḥāyā) alphabet with additional letters borrowed from the Malayalam script to represent the sounds of Malayalam, creating a fascinating bridge between two ancient linguistic traditions.

The Saint Thomas Christians trace their heritage to the arrival of Thomas of Cana, a Palestinian, who came to Kerala in 345 AD with 70 families, bringing with them Syriac Christianity. Over centuries, Malayalam became their spoken language while Syriac remained their liturgical language, resulting in the development of this hybrid writing system.

# SECTION I: PHONOLOGICAL SYSTEM

### Malayalam Phonology Overview

Malayalam is a Dravidian language with approximately 53 phonemes—significantly more than the 22 consonant letters available in the standard East Syriac alphabet. This phonetic richness posed the central challenge in developing Suriyani Malayalam. The language possesses:

- **Vowels (Vowel Diacritics/Matras):** 8-9 distinct vowel sounds
- **Consonants:** Multiple series of stops, fricatives, nasals, liquids, and approximants
- **Additional Features:** Retroflexion (retroflex consonants), gemination (doubled consonants), and prosodic elements

### Consonant System in Suriyani Malayalam

The consonants are organized into distinct series based on their articulatory properties:

Velar Series: [k,kh,ŋ,g]

Palatal Series: [c,ch,ñ,j]

Retroflex Series: [ṭ,ṭh,ṇ,ḍ]

Alveolar Series: [t,th,n,d]

Labial Series: [p,ph,m,b,v]

The fricatives include **s** (alveolar), **ś** (palatal), **ṣ** (retroflex), and **h** (glottal), while the liquids are **l** and **ḷ** (retroflex). The approximant **y** and sometimes **r** (as an approximant, distinct from its liquid variant) complete the system.

**Vowel System**

The eight vowels of Malayalam are represented using diacritical marks (matras) added to consonant letters or attached to the initial sign ܐ (Alap):

| Vowel | Syriac Form | Malayalam Comparison | IPA | Example |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **a** (short) | ◌̇ ◌̣ | അ | [ə] | അ (a) |
| **ā** (long a) | ◌̈ | ആ | [aː] | ആ (ā) |
| **i** (short) | ◌̇ | ഇ | [i] | ഇ (i) |
| **ī** (long i) | ◌̈ | ഈ | [iː] | ഈ (ī) |
| **u** (short) | ◌̣ | ഉ | [u] | ഉ (u) |
| **ū** (long u) | ◌̣̇ | ഊ | [uː] | ഊ (ū) |
| **e** | ◌̈ | എ | [e] | എ (e) |
| **ē** | ◌̈◌̈ | ഏ | [eː] | ഏ (ē) |
| **o** | ◌̣ | ഒ | [o] | ഒ (o) |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ō | ܘ̇ | ◌ോ | [oː] | ◌ോ (ō) |

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# SECTION II: THE SURIYANI MALAYALAM ALPHABET

### Part A: Basic Syriac Letters Used in Suriyani Malayalam

The East Syriac alphabet forms the foundation. Below is the comparison between the basic Syriac letters and their Malayalam equivalents and romanization:

| Syriac | Name | Malayalam Correspondence | Latin Romanization | IPA | Usage Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ܐ | Alap | അ | a | [ə] / [aː] | Initial vowel or glottal stop |
| ܒ | Bēth | ബ/വ | b/v | [b] / [ʋ] | Two sounds depending on context |
| ܓ | Gamal | ഗ | g | [g] | Velar stop |
| ܕ | Dālet | ദ | d | [d] | Alveolar stop |

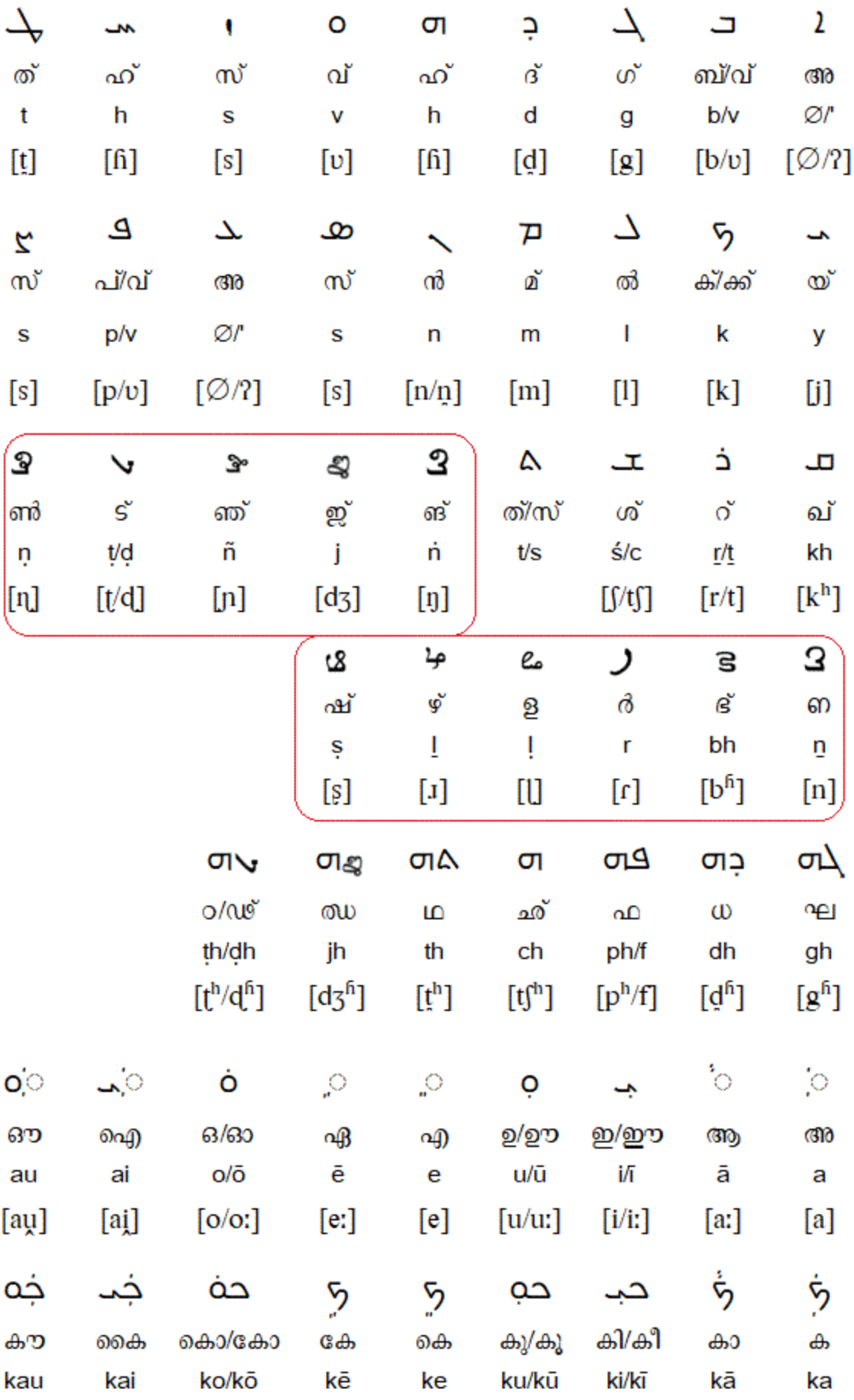
| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ה | Hē | ഹ | h | [h] | Glottal fricative |
| ו | Waw | വ | v/w | [ʊ] | Labial approximant or semi-vowel |
| ז | Zayn | സ | z | [z] | Rare, mostly in loanwords |
| ח | Ḥēth | ഹ | ḥ | [x] / [χ] | Velar fricative (loanword) |
| ט | Ṭēth | ത | ṭ | [θ̠] / [θ] | Rare, mostly in loanwords |
| י | Yōdh | യ | y | [j] | Palatal approximant |
| כ | Kāp̄ | ക/ക്ക് | k | [k] | Velar stop |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ലാ | Lamadh | ല | l | [l] | Alveolar lateral |
| മാ | Mīm | മ | m | [m] | Bilabial nasal |
| നാ | Nūn | ന | n | [n] | Alveolar nasal |
| സാ | Semkath | സ | s | [s] | Alveolar fricative |
| ഹാ | ʿĒ | ഉ/അ | ʿ | [ʕ] / [ʔ] | Semitic emphatic (loanword) |
| പാ | Pē | പ | p | [p] | Labial stop |
| ഷാ | Ṣādhē | സ | ṣ | [sˤ] | Emphatic (loanword) |
| ഖാ | Qōp̄ | ഖ | q | [q] / [kʰ] | Uvular or aspirated |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | (loanword) |
| ܪ | Rēš | ര | r | [ɾ] | Alveolar tap/flap |
| ܫ | Šīn | ശ | š | [ʃ] | Palatal fricative |
| ܬ | Tāw | ത | t | [t] | Alveolar stop |

**Part B: Augmented Letters from Malayalam Script**

To represent the distinctive Malayalam consonants not found in Syriac, additional letter forms were incorporated. These augmented letters represent some of Malayalam's most characteristic sounds:


ത് ഹ് സ് വ് ഹ് ദ് ഗ് ബ്/വ് അ
t h s v h d g b/v ∅/ʔ
[t̪] [ɦ] [s] [ʋ] [ɦ] [d̪] [g] [b/ʋ] [∅/ʔ]
സ് പ്/വ് അ സ് ൻ മ് ൽ ക്/ക്ക് യ്
s p/v ∅/ʔ s n m l k y
[s] [p/ʋ] [∅/ʔ] [s] [n/n̪] [m] [l] [k] [j]
ൺ ട് ഞ് ഩ് ങ് ത്/സ് ശ് റ് ഖ്
ṇ ṭ/ḍ ñ j ṅ t/s ś/c r̲/t̲ kh
[ɳ] [ʈ/ɖ] [ɲ] [dʒ] [ŋ] [ʃ/tʃ] [r/t] [kʰ]
ഷ് ഴ് ള ൾ ഭ് ണ
ṣ l̤ l̥ r bh n̲
[ʂ] [ɻ] [l̥] [r] [bʱ] [n]
ഠ ഢ ഝ ധ ഫ ഡ ഛ
ഠ/ഢ് ഝ ഥ ഛ് ഫ ഡ ഘ
ṭh/ḍh jh th ch ph/f dh gh
[ʈʰ/ɖʱ] [dʒʱ] [t̪ʰ] [tʃʰ] [pʰ/f] [ɖʱ] [gʱ]
ഔ ഐ ഒ/ഓ ഏ എ ഉ/ഊ ഇ/ഈ ആ അ
au ai o/ō ē e u/ū i/ī ā a
[au̯] [ai̯] [o/oː] [eː] [e] [u/uː] [i/iː] [aː] [a]
കൗ കൈ കൊ/കോ കേ കെ കു/കൂ കി/കീ കാ ക
kau kai ko/kō kē ke ku/kū ki/kī kā ka

**Part C: Vowel Diacritics (Matras)**

In Suriyani Malayalam, vowels are represented through diacritical marks applied to consonants. These markers are called matras and are positioned above, below, or around the consonant letter:

| Vowel | Syriac Diacritic | Name | Position | Example in ک |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **a** (inherent) | none | (inherent) | N/A | ܟ (ka) |
| **ā** | ◌̈ | Pthaha | above | ܟ̈ (kā) |
| **i** | ◌ܺ | Zqapa | below | ◌ܺܟ (ki) |
| **ī** | ◌ܻ | Zqapa Gala | below | ◌ܻ (kī) |
| **u** | ◌ܼ | Rukkakha | below | ◌ܼܟ (ku) |
| **ū** | ◌̣ | Esasa Rukkakha | below | ◌̣ܟ (kū) |
| **e** | ◌ܹ | Yudho Qushayo | below | ◌ܹ (ke) |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ē** | ◌̈ | Yudho Qushayo (elongated) | below | ◌̈ (kē) |
| **o** | ◌̣ | Rukkakha (o variant) | below | ◌̣ (ko) |
| **ō** | ◌̇ | Esasa Rukkakha (o variant) | below | ◌̇ (kō) |

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## SECTION III: WRITING DIRECTION AND BASIC PRINCIPLES

Unlike modern Malayalam which is written left-to-right, Suriyani Malayalam follows the Syriac convention of being written **right-to-left** in horizontal lines. This reflects its historical origin and connection to Syriac script traditions.

**Key Orthographic Principles:**

**1. Inherent Vowel:** Every consonant carries an inherent short 'a' vowel (schwa sound [ə]). For example, ◌ represents 'ka' by default.

**2. Vowel Marking:** To indicate a different vowel, appropriate diacritics are added to the consonant. Absence of a diacritic indicates the default 'a' sound.

**3. Conjuncts and Ligatures:** Multiple consonants can combine to form consonant clusters, often represented through ligatures (combined letter forms) or through the use of a virama-like marker when a consonant lacks a vowel.

**4. Gemination:** Double consonants (geminated sounds) are indicated through repetition or special orthographic conventions in the script.

**5. Word Boundaries:** Spaces separate words, following the Syriac convention. Word-final forms may differ slightly from medial or initial forms in cursive contexts.

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## SECTION IV: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

**Example 1: Basic Word - "Pithavu" (Father)**

| Script | Form | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni) | ܦܝܬܒ | pithāvu | Father |
| Malayalam Script | പിതാവ് | pithāvu | Father |
| Syriac Script | ܐܒܐ | ptā | Father (Syriac original - "Avā") |
| Romanized | pithāvu | - | Father |

The Malayalam word is clearly derived from the Syriac root, demonstrating the linguistic borrowing and adaptation. The retroflex consonant ṭ (ṭ) is used to represent Malayalam's distinctive dental-alveolar consonant.

**Example 2: "Nasrani" (Christian)**

| Script | Form | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suriyani Malayalam | ܢܲܣ݂ܪܲܢܝ | nasrāni | Christian; follower of Nazareth |
| Malayalam Script | നസ്രാണി | nasrāni | Christian |
| Syriac Origin | ܢܲܨ݂ܪܳܝܳܐ | Nāṣrāyā | Follower of Nazareth |
| Romanized | nasrāni | - | Christian |

This term exemplifies the significant Syriac vocabulary adopted by Malayalam in religious contexts. The Syriac origin is transparently visible.

**Example 3: "Eesho" (Jesus)**

| Script | Form | Transliteration | Meaning |
|---|---|---|---|
| Suriyani Malayalam | ܝܫܘ | īšō | Jesus |
| Malayalam Script | ഈശോ | īšō | Jesus |
| Syriac Original | ܝܫܘܥ | Īšōʿ | Jesus |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Romanized | īšō | - | Jesus |

The term demonstrates how Syriac names were adapted to Malayalam phonetics and script conventions. The long vowels are distinctly marked.

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# SECTION V: DAILY CHRISTIAN MALAYALAM GREETINGS AND PHRASES

**Basic Greetings**

**1. Good Morning (Suprabhatha)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Good morning, Grace be with you | നല്ല പ്രഭാതം, നിങ്ങളിൽ കൃപ | ܟܠ ܒܨܦܪ ܐ ܕ ܥܡܟܘܢ ܢ ܀ | Nallā prabhāthā, ennitum krupa | Used in the morning; greetings in Christian communities |

**2. Peace Be With You (Shalom)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peace be with you | സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നിങ്ങൾക്ക് | ܫܠܡܐ ܥܠܝܟ | Shāmā alaikum | "Alaikum" is the Malayalam/Arabic form of greeting |

**3. Grace and Peace**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May grace and peace be upon you | കൃപയും സമാധാനവും നിങ്ങൾക്ക് | ܫܠܡܐ ܥܠܝܟ ܘܛܝܒܘܬܐ | Krupia alaikum, shalāma | Traditional Christian greeting |

**Religious Expressions and Phrases**

**4. Glory Be To God (Doxa)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glory be to God | ദൈവത്തിനെ സ്തുതി | ܕܝܒܬܗܝܢ ܫܒܚܐ ܠܐܠܗܐ | Dayvathine sthuthi | Central to Orthodox liturgy |

**5. Blessed is the Lord (Baruch Adonai)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blessed is the Lord | കർത്താവ് വാഴ്ത്തപ്പെട്ടവൻ | ܡܒܪܟ ܗܘ ܡܪܢ | Mubārak thabaria | Expression of blessing for the Lord |

**6. Praise The Lord (Alleluia)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Praise the Lord (Alleluia) | കർത്താവിനെ ആരാധിക്കുക | ܗܠܠܘܝܐ | Hallelugia | Aramaic-derived liturgical acclamation |

**7. May God Bless You (Makula Aloho)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| May God bless you | ദൈവം നിങ്ങളെ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ | ܡܪܝ ܥܠܗ ܒܪܟ | Marān alāfe hēman | Used at farewells and blessings |

**8. Amen (May it be so)**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Amen | ആമെൻ | ܐܡܝܢ | Āmen | Affirmation; universal across Christian traditions |

**Table of Additional Christian Phrases**

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni/Suriyani | Transliteration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord | പരിശുദ്ധൻ, പരിശുദ്ധൻ, പരിശുദ്ധൻ കർത്താവ് | ܩܕܝܫ ܩܕܝܫ ܩܕܝܫ | Qadish, Qadish, Qadish |
| Christ is Risen | ക്രിസ്തു പുനരുത്ഥിതൻ | ܡܫܝܚܐ ܩܡ | Meshīḥā qām |
| Forgive us our sins | ഞങ്ങളുടെ പാപങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളെ മാപ്പുകൊടുക്കണ്ടതെ | ܫܒܘܩ ܠܢ ܚܘܒܝܢ | Shbuq lan hubyin |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thy Kingdom Come | നിന്റെ രാജ്യം വരണം | ܬܹܐܬܟ ܡܲܠ݂ܟ | Tēthā malkuthak |
| Thy Will Be Done | നിന്റെ ഇച്ഛ നിറവേറണം | ܢܶܬܥܒܕ ܨܒ݂ܝܢܟ | Nettaʿbād ṣebyānāk |

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## SECTION VI: THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SURIYANI MALAYALAM (KARSHONI)

**The Lord's Prayer (Pithru Prarthana)**

This is one of the most important Christian texts and is traditionally sung in Syriac in Kerala churches. Here it is presented in full with comparisons:

**Full Prayer in Multiple Formats**

**English Translation:**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.

**Syriac Original (East Syriac - Classical Aramaic):**

ܐܒܘܢ ܕܒܫܡܝܐ

ܢܬܩܕܫ ܫܡܟ ܬܐܬܐ ܡܠܟܘܬܟ ܢܗܘܐ ܨܒܝܢܟ ܐܝܟ ܒܫܡܝܐ ܐܦ ܒܐܪܥܐ ܠܚܡ ܠܚܡܢ ܕܣܘܢܩܢ ܝܘܡܢ ܘܫܒܘܩ ܠܢ ܚܘܒܝܢ ܐܝܟ ܕܐܦ ܚܢܢ ܫܒܩܢ ܠܚܝܒܝܢ ܘܠܐ ܬܥܠܢ ܠܢܣܝܘܢ ܐܠܐ ܦܨܢ ܡܢ ܒܝܫܐ ܀

**Malayalam (Modern Script):**

സ്വർഗ്ഗസ്ഥനായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പിതാവേ, നിന്റെ നാമം പരിശുദ്ധമായിരിക്കട്ടെ. നിന്റെ രാജ്യം വരണം. നിന്റെ ഇച്ഛ സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിലെപ്പോലെ ഭൂമിയിലും നിറവേറണം. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ദൈനദിനി അപ്പം ഇന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് തരണം. ഞങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ കടക്കാരോട് മാപ്പുകൊടുത്തതുപോലെ, നിന്റെ കടക്കാരെ ഞങ്ങളും മാപ്പുകൊടുത്തിട്ട് നിന്റെ കടങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് മാപ്പുകൊടുക്കണം. ഞങ്ങളെ പരീക്ഷയിലേക്ക് നയിക്കരുത്, പകരം ദുഷ്ടത്വത്തിൽനിന്ന് ഞങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കണം. കാരണം രാജ്യവും ശക്തിയും മഹത്വവും നിത്യകാലത്തേക്ക് നിന്നുടെയതാണ്. ആമെൻ.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni) - Line by Line:**

ܐܒܘܢ ܕܒܫܡܝܐ *Abūn dlbaśmaya* (Our Father in heaven)

ܢܬܩܕܫ ܫܡܟ *Nettqadash shmak* (Hallowed be Your name)

ܬܐܬܐ ܡܠܟܘܬܟ *Tēthā malkuthak* (Your Kingdom come)

ܢܗܘܐ ܨܒܝܢܟ ܐܝܟ ܕܒܫܡܝܐ ܐܦ ܒܐܪܥܐ *Nehwē ṣbyanāk ayekna dbshmaya ap bā'rʿā* (Your will be done on earth as in heaven)

ܠܚܡ ܠܚܡܢ ܕܣܘܢܩܢ ܝܘܡܢ ܘܫܒܘܩ ܠܢ *Lḥemnā dsuneqnan hab lan yumānā* (Give us this day our daily bread)

ܘܫܒܘܩ ܠܢ ܚܘܒܝܢ ܐܝܟ ܕܐܦ ܚܢܢ ܫܒܩܢ ܠܚܝܒܝܢ *Weshbuq lan hubyin ayekna dāf hannan shbaqan lmkhayibyin* (Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors)

ܘܠܐ ܥܠܝܢ ܠܬܥܠܬܐ ܐܠܐ *Wlā tlaʿlan lnesyunā* (Lead us not into temptation)

ܐܠܐ ܦܪܩܢ ܡܢ ܒܝܫܐ ܐܠ *Allā perqān men bíshā* (But deliver us from evil)

ܡܛܠ ܕܕܝܠܟ ܗܝ ܡܠܟܘܬܐ ܘܚܝܠܐ ܘܫܒܘܚܬܐ ܠܥܠܡ ܘܠܥܠܡܝ ܥܠܡܝܢ *Matal de-dilok hī malkuthā wkhaylā wtshbuḥtā lʿālam wlʿālmay ʿalmīn* (For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever)

ܐܡܝܢ *Āmen* (Amen)

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# SECTION VII: SELECTED BIBLE VERSES IN SURIYANI MALAYALAM

**John 1:1 (The Word)**

**English:**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Malayalam:**

തുടക്കത്തിൽ വചനം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു, വചനം ദൈവത്തോടുകൂടി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു, വചനം ദൈവമായിരുന്നു.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni):**

ܒܪܫܝܬ ܗܘܐ ܡܠܬܐ، ܘܡܠܬܐ ܗܘܬ ܥܡ ܗܘܐ ܡܠܬܐ، ܘܡܠܬܐ ܗܘ ܐܠܗܐ

**Transliteration:**

Breşhytha hawa maltā, wmaltā hwath ʿam marīā, wmaltā hwath ālāhā

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**John 3:16 (God's Love)**

**English:**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Malayalam:**

ദൈവം വിശ്വാസികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി തന്റെ ഏകജാതനായ പുത്രനെ നല്കി, അവനിൽ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നവർ നശിക്കരുതെങ്കിലും നിത്യജീവൻ പ്രാപിക്കട്ടെ.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni):**

ܠܟ ܡܢ ܐܦ݂ܐܡ ܕ ܠܛ݂ܐܕ ܕܡ ܠܥܘܠܡܐ ܠܒܗܡ ܡܕ ܓܘ ܠܒܪ ܠܚܝܕ ܕܟ ܠܟܠ ܕܡܢ ܒܗ ܠܐ ܢܐܒܕ ܠܗ ܐܠܐ ܚܝܐ ܠܥܠܡܐ ܠܥܠܡ

**Transliteration:**

Lahu gīr āfar ālāhā lʿālmā ʿdmā dehab breh khasīdīyā mahwūytā dekh - brnāshā de-mhānmen beh lā nbīd ellā nhwā leh khyā ʿalmīyā

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**Psalm 23 (The Lord Is My Shepherd)**

**English (First 4 verses):**

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

**Malayalam:**

കർത്താവ് എന്നെ ഇടയൻ ആയിരുന്നു, എനിക്ക് വേണ്ടത് ഒന്നുമുണ്ടാകരുത്. പച്ചയായ മേച്ചൽ ഭൂമിയിൽ എന്നെ കിടത്തുന്നു. നിശ്ശബ്ദമായ നീരുൾ സമീപത്ത് നയിക്കുന്നു. എന്നെ ഉജ്ജീവിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. നിന്റെ നാമത്തിനായി നീതിയുള്ള പാതകൾ കാണിക്കുന്നു.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni) - First Two Verses:**

ܡܪܝܐ ܪܥܝܐ ܠܝ ܘܠܐ ܐܚܣܪ *Marīā rāʿyā lī wlā ākhsar* (The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want)

ܒܦܢܟܐ ܕܣܝܒܘܬܐ ܗܘܐ ܗܘܐ ܪܥܝܢܝ *Bfānkhā ddṣībūtā hwā hwā rāʿyīnnī* (In green pastures He makes me lie)

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# SECTION VIII: THE AARONIC BLESSING IN SURIYANI MALAYALAM

The Aaronic Blessing (also called the Priestly Blessing) is one of the most sacred blessings in Jewish and Christian tradition, originating from Numbers 6:24-26. It is particularly cherished in the Saint Thomas Christian tradition and is frequently used in liturgical settings.

**The Aaronic Blessing - Full Text**

**English Translation:**

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**Hebrew Original (for reference):**

יְבָרֶכְךָ יהוה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ יָאֵר יהוה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וִיחֻנֶּךָּ יִשָּׂא יהוה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וְיָשֵׂם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם

**Malayalam:**

കർത്താവ് നിങ്ങളെ അനുഗ്രഹിച്ചുകൊടുക്കട്ടെ കർത്താവ് നിങ്ങളെ സംരക്ഷിക്കട്ടെ കർത്താവ് തന്റെ മുഖം നിങ്ങൾക്കിലേക്ക് പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചു കരുണ കാണിക്കട്ടെ കർത്താവ് തന്റെ മുഖം നിങ്ങൾക്കിലേക്ക് ഉയർത്തി നിങ്ങൾക്കു സമാധാനം കൊടുക്കട്ടെ

**Aaronic Blessing in Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni)**
**Verse 1: The Blessing and Keeping**

ܝܒܪܟܟ ܡܪܝ ܘܢܛܪܟ *Yevarekakha Marya weneṭrakha* (May the Lord bless you and keep you)

**Verse 2: The Shining Face and Graciousness**

ܝܥܝܪ ܡܪܝ ܦܢܝܘ ܐܠܝܟ ܘܝܚܢܢܟ *Ya'īr Marya pānāyw ālīk weyīḥunnnak* (May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you)

**Verse 3: The Lifted Countenance and Peace**

ܢܣܒ ܡܪܝ ܦܢܝܘ ܐܠܝܟ ܘܝܣܡ ܠܟ ܫܠܡܐ *Yesā' Marya pānāyw ālīk wyeshem lak shlāmā* (May the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace)

**Full Blessing in Traditional Liturgical Format (Karshoni):**

ܢܒܪܟܟ ܡܪܝ ܘܢܛܪܟ ܢܥܒܕ ܡܪܝ ܦܢܝܘ ܐܠܝܟ ܘܢܚܢܢܟ ܢܥܒܕ ܡܪܝ ܦܢܝܘ ܐܠܝܟ ܘܢܣܡ ܠܟ ܫܠܡܐ ܢܣܒ ܡܪܝ ܦܢܝܘ ܐܠܝܟ ܘܢܣܡ ܠܟ ܫܠܡܐ

*Mubārak Marīa gabratkun wneṭarkun Wnekhbesh Marīa āfēwhy lwatmun wyemfaṭ lakun Wne'āʿf Marīa āfēwhy lwatmun wyehab lakun shlāmā*

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# SECTION IX: ADDITIONAL LITURGICAL PRAYERS AND EXPRESSIONS

**The Trisagion (Holy, Holy, Holy)**

This is one of the most ancient Christian hymns, dating back to early Christian liturgy.

**English:**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us.

**Malayalam:**

പരിശുദ്ധനായ ദൈവമേ, പരിശുദ്ധനായ ബലവാനേ, പരിശുദ്ധനായ നരകമരണരഹിതനേ, ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് കരുണവരുത്തണം.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni):**

ܩܕܝܫ ܐܠܗܐ، ܩܕܝܫ ܚܣܢܐ، ܩܕܝܫ ܐܠܡܝܢܐ *Qadīsh Ālāhā, Qadīsh Ḥasnā, Qadīsh Almīnā*

ܐܬܠܡܘܢ ܥܠܝܢ *Atlmun ʿalyn* (Have mercy upon us)

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**Gloria (Glory Be)**

**English:**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Malayalam:**

പിതാവിനെ സ്തുതി, പുത്രനെ സ്തുതി, പരിശുദ്ധ ആത്മാവിനെ സ്തുതി; തുടക്കത്തിൽ എന്നപോലെ ഇപ്പോഴും എന്നും ആയിരിക്കട്ടെ, സകലകാലത്തേയ്ക്കും. ആമെൻ.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni) - Abbreviated:**

ܫܒܘܗܳ ܠܳܐܒܳܐ ܘܠܒܪܳܐ ܘܠܪܘܚܳ ܕܩܘܕܫܳܐ *Shbuḥā lābā wlbrā wlruḥā dequddshā*

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**The Nicene Creed (Opening)**
**English:**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

**Malayalam:**

ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്ന ഒരേ ദൈവത്തിൽ, പിതാവിൽ സർവ്വ സർവ്വശക്തിയുള്ളവനിൽ, സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിന്റെയും ഭൂമിയുടെയും എല്ലാ കാര്യങ്ങളുടെയും ഉണ്ടാക്കിയവനിൽ, കാണാവുന്നതിന്റെയും കാണാനാകാത്തതിന്റെയും.

**Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni) - Abbreviated:**

ܡܗܝܡܢ ܐܢܐ ܒܐܠܗܐ ܡܚܕܐ ܐܒܐ ܕܠܐ ܫܘܦܪܐ ܒܪܝܬܐ ܫܡܝܐ ܘܐܪܥܐ

*Mahaymen ānā b'Ālāhā mkhādā Abā d'lā shuffrā lbrīyṯā shmayā w'arʿā*

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# SECTION X: PHONETIC GUIDE AND PRONUNCIATION

Understanding the pronunciation is essential for reading Suriyani Malayalam aloud.

Below is a comprehensive phonetic guide:

**Consonant Pronunciation Guide**

| Consonant | IPA | Description | Example (Malayalam) | Example (Karshoni) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **k** | [k] | Velar stop, unaspirated | കിതാബ് (kītābu) | ـجْـرَ |
| **kh** | [kʰ] | Velar stop, aspirated | ഖാദി (khādī) | ـدِـرَ |
| **g** | [g] | Velar stop, voiced | ഗതി (gthī) | ـجـ |
| **ng** | [ŋ] | Velar nasal | ങ (ṅ-syllabic) | ـ |
| **ch** | [tʃ] | Palatal affricate, unaspirated | ചതുരം (chthuram) | ـمـرَـ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **chh** | [tʃʰ] | Palatal affricate, aspirated | ഛത്രം (chhtram) | ڇٽرم |
| **j** | [dʒ] | Palatal affricate, voiced | ജലം (jalam) | جلم |
| **ny** | [ɲ] | Palatal nasal | ന്യായം (nyāyam) | ڃياءِ |
| **t** (alveolar) | [t̪] | Alveolar stop | തപസ് (tpas) | ٹپس |
| **th** (alveolar) | [t̪ʰ] | Alveolar stop, aspirated | തഴിലാ (thzīlā) | ٹھزيلا |
| **d** (alveolar) | [d̪] | Alveolar stop, voiced | ദിനം (dīnam) | ڈينم |
| **dh** (alveolar) | [d̪ʰ] | Alveolar stop, voiced, aspirated | ധൃതി (dhrithī) | ڍرِٹھي |
| **n** (alveolar) | [n̪] | Alveolar nasal | നരകം (nrakam) | نڑڪم |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ṭ** (retroflex) | [ʈ] | Retroflex stop | ട (ṭ-letter name) | ـٹ |
| **ṭh** (retroflex) | [ʈʰ] | Retroflex stop, aspirated | ഠ | ـٹھ |
| **ḍ** (retroflex) | [ɖ] | Retroflex stop, voiced | ഡ | ـڈ |
| **ḍh** (retroflex) | [ɖʰ] | Retroflex stop, voiced, aspirated | ഢ | ـڈھ |
| **ṇ** (retroflex) | [ɳ] | Retroflex nasal | ണ | ـڻ |
| **p** | [p] | Labial stop | പ (p) | ـپ |
| **ph** | [pʰ] | Labial stop, aspirated | ഫ (ph) | ـفـ |
| **b** | [b] | Labial stop, voiced | ബ (b) | ـبـ |
| **bh** | [bʱ] | Labial stop, voiced, aspirated | ഭ | ـبھ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **m** | [m] | Bilabial nasal | മരം (mram) | ܡܪܡ |
| **v** / **w** | [ʋ] | Labial approximant | വന്ന് (vnn) | ܘܢܢ |
| **y** | [j] | Palatal approximant | യാത്ര (yāthr) | ܝܐܬܪ |
| **r** (tap) | [ɾ] | Alveolar tap/flap | രതി (rthī) | ܪܬܝ |
| **l** | [l] | Alveolar lateral | ലിപി (lēpī) | ܠܝܦܝ |
| **ḷ** (retroflex) | [ɭ] | Retroflex lateral | ള | ܠ |
| **s** | [s̪] | Alveolar fricative | സരളം (sralam) | ܣܪܠܡ |
| **ś** (palatal) | [ʃ] | Palatal fricative | ശരണം (śrṇam) | ܫܪܢ |
| **ṣ** (retroflex) | [ʂ] | Retroflex fricative | ഷാ | ܫ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **h** | [h] | Glottal fricative | ഹരി (hrī) | ـذ؏ـ |

**Vowel Pronunciation Guide**

| Vowel | IPA | Description | Example | Karshoni |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **a** | [ə] | Schwa (inherent) | കൽ (kal - default) | ـكـ |
| **ā** | [aː] | Long a | കാൻ (kān) | ـٰكـ |
| **i** | [i] | Short i | കിൽ (kil) | ـبكـ |
| **ī** | [iː] | Long i | കീൽ (kīl) | ـكـ |
| **u** | [u] | Short u | കുൾ (kul) | ـكـ |
| **ū** | [uː] | Long u | കൂൾ (kūl) | ـكـ |
| **e** | [e] | Short e | കെൻ (ken) | ـكـ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ē** | [eː] | Long e | കേൻ (kēn) | ܩ݁ (extended) |
| **o** | [o] | Short o | കൊൻ (kon) | ܩ݂ |
| **ō** | [oː] | Long o | കോൻ (kōn) | ܩ݀ |

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# SECTION XI: WRITING SYSTEM SUMMARY AND PRACTICE

**Key Rules for Writing in Suriyani Malayalam**

- **Direction:** Write from right to left in horizontal lines.
- **Inherent Vowel:** Every consonant carries an inherent 'a' sound.
- **Diacritics:** Add appropriate matras to indicate different vowels.
- **Ligatures:** Consonant clusters may form ligatures or use conjunct forms.
- **Word Spacing:** Maintain clear spaces between words.
- **Gemination:** Double consonants are typically written as repetitions or through special marks.

**Practice Words**

Here are some common Malayalam words written in Suriyani Malayalam for practice:

| English | Malayalam | Karshoni | Transliteration |
|---|---|---|---|
| Water | ജലം | ﻝﺎﺠﻟ | jālam |
| Fire | തീ | ﻩﻴ | thī |
| Light | പ്രകാശം | ﻝﺎﺸﻤﺨﻓ | prakāśam |
| Dark/Darkness | ഇരുൾ | ﻝﻠﺤﻳ | irul |
| Tree | മരം | ﻝﺎﺠﻣ | maram |
| House | വീട് | ﺪﻴﻭ | vīdu |
| Mother | അമ്മ | ﻝﺎﻣﻷ | ammā |
| Father | പിതാവ് | ﻒﺒﺜﺟ | pithāvu |
| Child | കുട | ﻩﺪﻛ | kudā |
| Love | സ്നേഹം | ﻝﺎﻣﻏﻩﺳ | snēham |

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## CONCLUSION

Suriyani Malayalam (Karshoni/Garshoni) represents a remarkable linguistic and cultural achievement—the adaptation of an ancient Semitic script to write a Dravidian language. This unique system preserves the heritage of the Saint Thomas Christians of Kerala, maintaining a living connection between their Syriac liturgical traditions and their Malayalam vernacular speech.

While the script is no longer in common use, having been largely superseded by the Malayalam Brahmic script and the adoption of Malayalam as the primary liturgical language in many churches, it remains an important historical document and a symbol of religious and cultural continuity spanning nearly two millennia.

The ability to read and write Suriyani Malayalam requires understanding both the phonological system of Malayalam and the structural principles of the Syriac script. Through this textbook, learners can appreciate how two ancient writing systems merged to create a unique orthography that served as a bridge between liturgical Syriac Christianity and vernacular Malayalam spirituality. The greetings, prayers, and biblical passages presented here offer practical examples of how this script functioned in the lived religious experience of Kerala's Christian community.

Today, Suriyani Malayalam serves as a testament to the sophistication of medieval Indian Christian scholarship and remains a subject of academic interest and religious reverence among the descendants of the Saint Thomas Christians who continue to preserve their ancient traditions.

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This comprehensive textbook provides learners with a detailed foundation in Suriyani Malayalam, combining linguistic analysis with practical application through greetings, biblical passages, and liturgical prayers that were central to Kerala Christian worship.